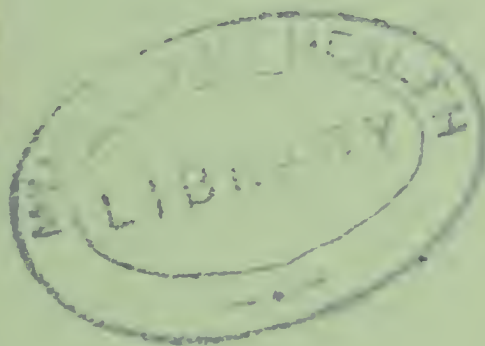


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# Darlaston Urban District Council



# REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR 1953

**E. P. McWHIRTER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.**  
Medical Officer of Health.

**J. S. BARKER, M.I.S.E., M.R.S.I.**  
Chief Sanitary Inspector.



# Report of the Medical Officer of Health

**For the year 1953.**

*Public Health Department,  
Town Hall,  
Darlaston.*

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE  
DARLASTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith submit my report for 1953.

1953 when put on paper would appear as a rather uneventful year. This does not mean that there was less work. Holding a fort though not as spectacular is often more difficult than taking it. As one gains experience one comes to realise how important the everyday day-to-day routine is.

We are entitled I think to feel proud of our progress in housing but of course we are not yet satisfied. When the work is done it all looks so easy but that is not so. Having an area of land at Bentley to develop has made it easier but it will be when we get deeper into the work of clearance areas that the "fun" will start. And the difficulties will not all be for the smaller Local Authority. The Town and Country Planning Authority will have its difficulties. The small Authority will naturally be concerned with the good of its own town. Timing of the various procedures that have to be gone through will be difficult.

During the time of preparation of this report the Chief Sanitary Inspectors changed. Before he left Mr. Barker was responsible for the preparation of some of the report.

I would like to pay tribute to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for the help and encouragement we in the Public Health Department have always received.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

E. P. McWHIRTER,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

**Staff.**

<i>Medical Officer of Health</i>	..	E. P. McWhirter, M.B., Ch.B. (Univ. Edin.), D.P.H.
<i>Chief Sanitary Inspector</i>	..	J. S. Barker, M.S.I.E., M.S.I.A.
<i>Additional Sanitary Inspectors</i>		F. H. Wynne. F. G. Ashcroft.
<i>Clerks</i>	.. ..	E. M. Gregory. A. Homer.

The post of Medical Officer of Health for Darlaston is a part-time one. For the rest of the time the Medical Officer is employed by the Staffordshire County Council as Assistant Medical Officer and School Medical Officer. Darlaston being a small town the Medical Officer of Health can be approached by the individual citizen and is consulted on all kinds of problems in Social Medicine and in some others.

All three Sanitary Inspectors hold the Sanitary Inspectors qualification and the Meat Inspectors Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute. In addition Mr. Wynne holds the Diploma R.I.P.H.H. and the First and Second Year Senior Buildings Certificates of the U.L.C.I. Mr. Ashcroft also holds the First, Second and Third Year Building Certificates of the U.L.C.I. and a First Class Pass in Boiler Practice of The City and Guilds of London Institute, and Boiler Practice of the Manchester College of Technology.

We have our own Public Health Committee but it is difficult to say which of the other Committees is not concerned with Public Health. Who can say that for instance the Town Hall and Library Committee has no bearing on Public Health for there are decided the conditions of the meeting places of the Council and its Committees and the offices of its Officials and Clerks. It might be said that the Planning Committee does not affect Public Health but there again decisions are made which can prevent or contribute to accidents in the home and affect health conditions in the factories. Finance we would like to say has no part with us but sadly we have to admit that the Treasurer has to darken our door frequently. Thus the Public Health Committee while having its own functions has to know what is going on in other Committees and reserve the right to make comments.

Darlaston with a relatively large part of its area occupied by Industry employs many workpeople who reside outside its boundaries. The industries are varied and range from Nuts and Bolts through drop forgings, galvanised hollow-ware, structural steelwork, pressings, twines and ropes, cycles and washing machines to flower pots and soap and candles.

I am again indebted to Mr. Briggs, Manager of the Darlaston branch of the Ministry of Labour and National Service who has kindly given me the following report :—

“ The past year has been rather an anxious one for local industry ; although no large scale redundancy of workpeople has occurred and the number of persons registering for employment at the Darlaston Employment Exchange has remained very low during the whole of the period.

The long drawn out trade dispute at the Austin Works in the Spring of the year had serious repercussions at local Engineering and Allied works causing loss in production, but extremely few engineering workers employed locally participated in the one-day token strike called for in December.

The year closed with a general all round increase in trade giving hopes that the improvement would continue throughout the coming year.

It is pleasing to record that all firms in Darlaston fulfilled their obligations under The Disabled Persons (Employment) Act, 1944, by employing the required quota of Registered Disabled Persons and in many cases the numbers employed well exceed the minimum of 3% set out in the Act.

In October the first report of the Committee for the employment of older men and women was published and preliminary enquiries among local manufacturers showed that a considerable number of workpeople (both men and women) above retiring age were still actively employed in the town.”



**STATISTICS.**

Area in acres .. .. .	1,534
Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population in mid 1953 .. .. .	21,940
Comparability factor for deaths .. .. .	1.26
Comparability factor for births .. .. .	0.96
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books ..	5,962
Total Rateable value.. .. .	£90,151
Industrial Rateable value .. .. .	£10,868
Sum represented by a Penny Rate in 1953 .. .. .	£355

**Live Births.**

	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate .. .. .	181	150	331
Illegitimate .. .. .	5	5	10
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	186	155	341
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Birth rate per 1,000 of the resident population .. ..	15.5
Corrected birth rate per 1,000 of the resident population	14.9
Birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 of the resident population .. .. .	15.5

**Still Births.**

	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate .. .. .	1	7	8
Illegitimate .. .. .	1	—	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2	7	9
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Still Birth rate per 1,000 of the resident population ..	0.41
Still Birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 of the resident population .. .. .	0.35

**Infantile Mortality.**

	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate .. .. .	10	3	13
Illegitimate .. .. .	—	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	10	3	13
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Deaths of Infants under four weeks of age :—

				<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	..	..	..	10	1	11
Illegitimate	..	..	..	—	—	—
				—	—	—
				10	1	11
				—	—	—

Death rate of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births .. .. . 38.2

Death rate for England and Wales of Infants under one year of age per 1,000 related live births .. .. . 26.8

Of the thirteen deaths under one year of age, eleven occurred in infants under four weeks of age. The causes of the other two were recurring Pneumonia and Prematurity at two months of age, and Hydrocephalus and Meningocele, a congenital cause where death occurred at two months of age.

These two deaths, one a congenital cause the other where prematurity was a contributory cause are virtually neo-natal deaths. This will show that our Death Rate in infants under one year of age is largely due to neo-natal deaths.

Of the eleven deaths under four weeks of age the causes were as follows :—

Intracranial Haemorrhage	..	..	..	..	4
Prematurity	..	..	..	..	2
Failure of lung to expand	..	..	..	..	1
Failure of lung to expand associated with prematurity					2
Prematurity and failure to thrive	..	..	..	..	1
Malformation at birth	..	..	..	..	1

The Still Birth rate this year is 0.41, last year the rate was 0.35, the actual number being nine this year and eight last year.

### **Maternal Mortality.**

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	..	..	..	..	Nil
Maternal Death rate from Puerperal Sepsis per 1,000 live and still births	..	..	..	..	Nil
Maternal Death rate for England and Wales from Puerperal Sepsis per 1,000 live and still births	..				0.1
Deaths from other causes associated with childbirth	..				Nil

For the fifth year in succession there were no deaths from causes associated with childbirth in women.

**Deaths.**

Number of deaths from all causes .. .. .	221
Death rate per 1,000 resident population .. ..	10.07
Corrected Death rate per 1,000 resident population ..	12.69
Death rate for England and Wales per 1,000 resident population .. .. .	11.4
Number of Deaths from Diarrhoea under two years of age	Nil
Death rate for England and Wales from Diarrhoea under two years of age .. .. .	1.1
Deaths from Cancer in all ages according to Registrar-General .. .. .	24



## CAUSES OF DEATH ACCORDING TO REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S RETURN.

Diseases.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Tuberculosis Respiratory .. .. .	5	1	6
Tuberculosis—Other organs .. .. .	0	0	0
Syphilitic Disease .. .. .	1	0	1
Diphtheria .. .. .	0	0	0
Whooping Cough .. .. .	0	0	0
Meningococcal Infections .. .. .	0	0	0
Acute Poliomyelitis .. .. .	0	0	0
Measles .. .. .	0	0	0
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases .. .. .	0	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm—Stomach .. .. .	4	1	5
Malignant Neoplasm—Lung and Bronchus .. .. .	5	0	5
Malignant Neoplasm—Breast .. .. .	—	2	2
Malignant Neoplasm—Uterus .. .. .	—	1	1
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms .. .. .	6	5	11
Leukaemia and Aleukaemia .. .. .	1	0	1
Diabetes .. .. .	1	0	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System .. .. .	7	10	17
Coronary disease—Angina .. .. .	16	8	24
Hypertension with heart disease .. .. .	1	5	6
Other heart disease .. .. .	24	20	44
Other Circulatory disease .. .. .	6	1	7
Influenza .. .. .	0	1	1
Pneumonia .. .. .	8	4	12
Bronchitis .. .. .	13	8	21
Other diseases of respiratory system .. .. .	0	1	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum .. .. .	1	1	2
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea .. .. .	0	0	0
Nephritis and Nephrosis .. .. .	3	3	6
Hyperplasia of Prostate .. .. .	0	—	0
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion .. .. .	—	0	0
Congenital malformations .. .. .	1	1	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases .. .. .	21	14	35
Motor vehicle accidents .. .. .	0	0	0
All other accidents .. .. .	4	1	5
Suicide .. .. .	5	0	5
Homicide and operations of war .. .. .	0	0	0
Total all causes .. .. .	133	88	221



## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Diseases.	No. of cases suspected.	Confirmed.	Removed to Hospital.
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	28	28	13
Whooping Cough .. .. .	89	89	3
Anterior Poliomyelitis .. .. .	3	2	3
Measles .. .. .	342	342	10
Diphtheria .. .. .	3	1	3
Pneumonia .. .. .	28	27	8
Erysipelas .. .. .	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia .. .. .	3	3	?
Ophthalmia Neonatorum .. .. .	—	—	—
Dysentery .. .. .	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever .. .. .	2	1	2
Paratyphoid Fever .. .. .	—	—	—
Encephalitis .. .. .	—	—	—

## AGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE COMMON INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

	Scarlet Fever.		Whooping Cough.		Measles.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year .. .. .	—	—	7	4	3	10
1—2 years .. .. .	—	1	8	9	48	46
3—4 years .. .. .	2	4	6	17	47	57
5—9 years .. .. .	6	8	17	19	70	55
10—14 years .. .. .	3	3	—	—	1	3
15—24 years .. .. .	—	—	—	—	1	—
25 and over .. .. .	—	1	—	2	—	1
Age unknown .. .. .	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total .. .. .	11	17	38	51	170	172

**TUBERCULOSIS.**  
**AGE DISTRIBUTION OF NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED AND DEATHS OCCURRING DURING 1953.**

Age.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary		Notified by Death		Deaths.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Pulmonary. M. F.	Non-Pulmonary M. F.
0—4 years ..	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
5—9 years ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—14 years ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—19 years ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—24 years ..	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—29 years ..	2	2	—	—	—	—	1	—
30—34 years ..	—	2	—	—	—	—	1	—
35—39 years ..	2	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
40—44 years ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
45—49 years ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	—
50—54 years ..	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
55—59 years ..	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
60—64 years ..	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65— ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Total—All ages ..	13	16	—	1	—	—	5	1
								—

### **Diphtheria.**

Three cases were admitted to hospital as suspected Diphtheria, and one case was confirmed as Diphtheria. This was a child of sixteen months of age, who was said to have been immunised in hospital, but this immunisation could not be confirmed. The child recovered.

### **Immunisation.**

A rough estimation of the percentage of children under five years of age immunised is 60%. We are indebted to the good work that the Child Welfare Visitors do in getting children under five immunised. I think that but for their constant reminding the parents of the value of immunisation against Diphtheria it would be much less. Some parents are still however content to leave immunisation until the child goes to school. I would urge that all parents should have their children immunised in the first year of life.

### **Scarlet Fever.**

During the year there were 28 cases notified comparing with 33 cases in 1952. The age distribution of these cases is shown on the accompanying table.

### **Measles.**

There was a large increase in the notifications of Measles during the year when there were 342 cases notified. Last year there were 33 cases notified. The age distribution of the notifications is shown on the accompanying table. There were no deaths.

### **Whooping Cough.**

There were 89 cases of Whooping Cough notified during the year comparing with 41 cases in 1952. No deaths from Whooping Cough occurred.

### **Anterior Poliomyelitis.**

One case of non-paralytic Poliomyelitis and one case of paralytic Poliomyelitis were confirmed during the year. Both cases made a good recovery. The case of paralytic Poliomyelitis had no appreciable residual paralysis in the leg.

### **Smallpox.**

No cases of Smallpox occurred during the year.



### **Typhoid and Paratyphoid.**

No cases occurred during the year.

### **Dysentery.**

No cases of Dysentery occurred during the year.

### **Tuberculosis.**

There were 268 cases of Tuberculosis on the register at the end of the year compared with 260 cases at the end of 1952. There were six deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year whereas in 1952 there were four deaths.

There were no cases notified to me by death this year. Most new cases appeared to have been discovered by Mass Radiography and therefore came to be notified by the Tuberculosis Officer. From the records of examination of Sputum for Tuberculosis it would appear that this is being used more and more by General Practitioners, especially in the older age groups. How necessary this is because of course the older age groups have a very good opportunity of infecting children and if it is discovered that anyone is carrying the Tuberculosis germ then that person can take precaution.

I keep in close touch with the Tuberculosis Officer, and the Housing Committee does all it can to see that housing conditions are favourable for the Tuberculous patient. Indeed Darlaston Council are very sympathetic to those suffering from Tuberculosis, but their generosity must not be imposed upon.

### **Pneumoconiosis.**

I find that in the ten years from 1944 to 1953 there were eight deaths where a cause of death was given that might be construed as pneumoconiosis, *viz* : Pneumoconiosis itself, silicosis, asbestosis and fibrosis of lung. The ages at death were as follows :—

<i>Age.</i>		<i>Sex.</i>		<i>Number</i>
33	..	M.	..	1
42	..	M.	..	1
43	..	M.	..	1
47	..	M.	..	1
50	..	M.	..	1
51	..	F.	..	1
59	..	M.	..	2

In one case the Fibrosis of lung was stated to be non-industrial and the man's occupation was given as Machine Toolsetter. In the other death where fibrosis of the lung was given as a cause of death and not specifying whether it was industrial or not the man's occupation was given as Iron Moulder. The occupations of the other six were Iron Moulder, 1 ; Tool fitter and setter, 1 ; Asbestos Spinner, 1 ; Steel Dresser, 3.

We in the Public Health Service are not concerned from the Industrial Compensation angle but we are concerned from the Preventive Health point of view. Neither do we want to cut across the Factory Inspector's work of preventing disease by advocating protective measures but I wonder if there is not a side where we could help. It is too late when a death has occurred and so the next possibility is notification to us when a case is discovered and the early case is the most important. Pneumoconiosis is mostly diagnosed by X-ray examination and is therefore likely to be diagnosed by the Mass Radiologist, the Tuberculosis Officer and the Hospital Radiologist. The big works where there is a Factory Surgeon possibly might not need to be investigated but investigation even there could do no harm. As we are not concerned with industrial compensation it might be better that the notification to us should only take the form of the patient's occupation and certainly the place of work. Investigation could then be made into the conditions at work and whether the protection provided is being used. Of course one would want to know all cases of pneumoconiosis not merely those who are in scheduled occupations.

### **Public Health Laboratory Service.**

The Public Health Laboratory, Martin Street, Stafford, deals with any bacteriological or bio-chemical investigation of disease found to be necessary.

### **Infectious Diseases Hospital.**

Admission to this is arranged through the Public Health Department or in emergency on application by the General Practitioner direct to the hospital.

### **Smallpox Hospital.**

Admission of a case of Smallpox is arranged through the Regional Hospital Board.

**Venereal Diseases.**

Treatment can be obtained either at the Manor Hospital, Walsall, or at the Wolverhampton Royal Hospital.

**General Hospitals.**

Admission is arranged by the General Practitioner direct with the hospital.

**Maternity Hospitals.**

The patient's doctor arranges admission when it is necessary on medical grounds; If admission on any other ground is thought desirable application should be made to the Health Visitor, Jane Mills Institute, Rectory Avenue, Darlaston.

**Midwifery.**

Midwives for the district are provided by the Stafford County Council.

**Health Visitors.**

The shortage of Health Visiting staff continues. The Health Visitors are appointed by the Stafford County Council.

**Ambulance Service.**

The Ambulance Depot is now at Darlaston. Telephone No. : Darlaston 591.

**Home Helps.**

This service for Darlaston is administered by the County Council through their Area Office at Wednesbury.

**HOUSING.**

The Housing Manager has given me the following table :—

<i>New houses let.</i>	<i>No. Sub- Tenants rehoused.</i>	<i>No. Tenants rehoused.</i>	<i>New bungalows let.</i>	<i>No. of tenants from Demolition Property.</i>
234 ..	113 ..	138 ..	28 ..	97
Total ..			262	

**FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.**

I am indebted to Dr. Ramage for the following information concerning samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and details of Milk taken for cleanliness and Biological examinations.

**LIST OF SAMPLES TAKEN DURING THE YEAR 1953.****Milk.**

Milk Pasteurised	..	..	..	10
Milk Sterilised ..	..	..	..	20
Milk T.T. Pasteurised	..	..	..	10
Milk T.T. ..	..	..	..	1
Milk T.T. Channel Island	..	..	..	1
				—
				42
				—
Number of Samples taken	..	..	..	42
Number of Samples Genuine	..	..	..	41
Number of Samples Adulterated	..	..	..	1

**General Foods.**

Number of Samples taken	..	..	..	26
Number of Samples genuine	..	..	..	25
Number of Samples Adulterated	..	..	..	1

**Classification of General Foods.**

Semolina.	Tonic Wine.
Coffee and Chicory Essence.	British Sherry.
Nutty Butters.	Dessert Wine.
Milk Chocolate.	Green Ginger Wine.
Pork Sausage.	British Ruby Wine.
Coconut Ice.	Gin.

Milk Chocolate Sundae.	Epsom Salts.
Rhubarb in pure syrup.	Yeast (Dried Autolysed).
Ground Rice.	Ground Coffee.
Vienna Sausage.	Bicarbonate of Soda.
Mushroom Ketchup.	Lime Juice Cordial.
Mixed Spice.	Non-Brewed Condiment.
Liquid Fruit Pectin.	Danish Port in natural juices.

### **Particulars of Adulterated Samples.**

Sterilised Milk—Contained at least 3.7% added water, 4% deficient in solids-not-fat. (Cautioned).

Gin (Formal)—Contained 7.1% Extraneous Water—  
Fined £3 0s. 0d. Costs £3 7s. 0d.



**RESULTS OF EXAMINATION OF MILK SAMPLES TAKEN BY STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
DURING 1953.**

	No. of	Cleanliness.		Phosphatase Test		Turbidity Test.		Tubercle Bacillus	
		Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Pass	Fail	Pass	Fail	Present	Absent
Tuberculin Tested .. ..	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
T.T. Pasteurised .. ..	8	8	—	8	—	—	—	—	—
Pasteurised .. ..	11	11	—	11	—	—	—	—	2
Sterilised .. ..	8	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—
Totals .. ..	28	20	—	19	—	8	—	—	3

Furthermore, 16 pasteurised milk samples from schools and three from canteens were taken and all passed the stipulated tests.

## SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The report of the Engineer and Surveyor on the sewage outfall works is similar to that of last year.

## WATER SUPPLY.

Part of Darlaston is supplied by the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company. Periodically samples are examined. Throughout the year the supply was adequate and of satisfactory quality.

A typical sample showed the following analysis.

### Results of Examination of Samples of Water taken on the 9th April, 1953.

#### Bacteriological Examination.

BACTERIA. Colonies per ml.	COLIFORM BACTERIA.
Nutrient Agar at 20°C. 3 days—0	Presumptive Test. Absent.
Nutrient Agar at 37°C. 1 day—0	Differential Tests. Absent.
Nutrient Agar at 37°C. 2 days—0	

#### Physical Characters.

Colour (Burgess) .. .. 3 mm.	Taste .. .. Normal
Turbidity .. .. Suspended matter	Odour .. .. Nil
pH .. .. 7.5	

#### Chemical Analysis (Expressed in Parts per Million).

Free CO <sub>2</sub>	Silica (SiO <sub>2</sub> )
Alkalinity (CaCO <sub>3</sub> ) .. 164	Calcium (Ca)
Chlorides (Cl) .. .. 104.2	Magnesium (Mg)
Ammoniacal Nitrogen .. Trace	Sodium (Na)
Albuminoid Nitrogen .. Trace	Carbodate (CO <sub>3</sub> )
Oxidised Nitrogen .. 2.7	Sulphate (SO <sub>4</sub> )
Oxygen Absorbed (3 hours	Iron (Fe) .. .. 02
at 27°C.) .. .. 12	Manganese (Mn) .. 03
Temporary Hardness .. 158	Zinc (Zn) .. .. Nil
Permanent Hardness .. 22	Poisonous Metals Cu Nil
Total Hardness .. .. 180	Pb Nil
Total Solids (dried at 180°C.)	Free Cl .. .. Nil

A pure and wholesome supply.

The Bentley area of Darlaston is supplied by the Wolverhampton Corporation Waterworks. The supply is now adequate. Formerly pressure was rather low.

**HOUSING.**

The following houses have been erected by the Council during the year :—

Street.	1 Bedroom.	2 Bedrooms.	3 Bedrooms.
Alexander Road .. .. .	—	—	2
Ames Road .. .. .	—	12	2
Bader Road .. .. .	—	6	10
Banfield Avenue .. .. .	22	—	—
Bush Street .. .. .	8	—	—
Cairn Drive .. .. .	—	—	2
Cheshire Road .. .. .	—	10	3
Edinburgh Avenue .. .. .	—	36	30
Hall Street East .. .. .	—	—	2
Ince Road .. .. .	—	12	—
Khyber Close .. .. .	6	—	—
Mountbatten Road .. .. .	—	14	22
Portal Road .. .. .	—	4	4
Queen Elizabeth Avenue .. .. .	—	—	17
Rough Hay Road .. .. .	—	—	2
Slim Road .. .. .	—	—	10
Tedder Road .. .. .	—	—	8
Wilkes Avenue .. .. .	—	2	—
Wingate Road .. .. .	—	—	16
	36	96	130
	262		

The following houses were built by Private Enterprise :—

Heath Road .. .. .	2
Wilkes Avenue .. .. .	6
Wolverhampton Road West .. .. .	7
	—
	15
	—

**Houses Demolished, 1953 under Housing Act, 1936.**

Bentley—County Bridge Cottages 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 .. .. .	8
Bentley Mill Lane, Two Arches 1 and 2 .. .. .	2
Bilston Street, 18, 19 and 19a .. .. .	3
Bush Street, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33 .. .. .	5
Cramphill, 15 .. .. .	1
Cockheath, Moxley rear 3, Nos. 1 and 2 .. .. .	2

New Street, 29 and Court 4, Houses 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 .. .. .	8
The Green, 76 and 77 .. .. .	2
Victoria Road, Court 1, Houses 2 and 3 ..	2
	<hr/>
	33
	<hr/>

**Houses which became void during 1953 as the result of action under the Housing Act, 1936.**

Beard Street, 8 .. .. .	1
Bentley—County Bridge Cottages, 2, 3 and 8	3
Bentley Mill Lane, Two Arches, 1 and 2 ..	2
Bush Street, 8, 9, 10, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33 ..	8
Catherines Cross, 14, 15, 16, 63, 79, 80, 81, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125 and 126 .. .. .	14
Factory Street, 24 and 25 .. .. .	2
Foundry Street, 18, 22, 34, 35, 36, 43, 45, 46, 47, 49, 50, 52, 53, 54, 56b, 56c, 56d, 56e, 56g, 58, 59, 63, 64 .. .. .	23
Heathfield Lane, 16 and 17 .. .. .	2
High Street, Darlaston, 22 .. .. .	1
Mill Street, 44 and 46 .. .. .	2
Moxley Road, 20, 46, 48, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, Court 1, Houses 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 .. .. .	16
New Street, 29, Court 4, House 7 .. .. .	2
Park Street, 1 and 11 .. .. .	2
St. Georges Street, 15, Court 1, Houses 4, 5, and 6	4
Smith Street, 17 .. .. .	1
The Green, 19 .. .. .	1
Victoria Road, 10 and 11, Court 1, Houses 2 and 3 .. .. .	4
	<hr/>
	88
	<hr/>

**Houses on which Demolition Orders were made under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.**

Beard Street, 8 .. .. .	1
Bentley Mill Lane, Two Arches, 1 and 2 ..	2
Bush Street, 8, 9 and 10 .. .. .	3
Catherines Cross, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125 and 126 .. .. .	7
Factory Street, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27 ..	6

Heathfield Lane, 16, 17, 18 and 19 .. ..	4
Moxley Road, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 46, 48, 54, 56, 58, 60, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, Court 1, Houses 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 .. .. .	30
Pinfold Street, 62 and 63 .. .. .	2
Smith Street, 17 .. .. .	1
St. George's Street, Court 1, Houses 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11 and 12 .. .. .	7
Victoria Road, 10 and 11 .. .. .	2
	—
	65
	—

**Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.**

Blockall, 49 and 53 .. .. .	2
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**HOUSING.**

The housing position as regards action under Part III of the Housing Act, 1936, is as follows :—

	Number of dwellings houses demolished.		Number of persons displaced up to 31/12/53.	Number of dwelling houses made fit.
	Unfit houses.	Other houses.		
<b>Part A.</b> Clearance Areas :—				
(i) Land Coloured " pink "	188	—	848	—
(ii) Land coloured " grey "	—	—	—	—
<b>Part B.</b> Improvement Areas .. .. .	—	—	—	—

Rehousing of the occupants of the houses in the Foundry Street and Park Street areas commenced in 1953, 80 persons being rehoused during the year.

**FOR YEAR 1953.**

**Part C.**

Insanitary houses not included in clearance areas or improvement areas.

*NOTE.*—The references below relate to Part 2 Sections of the Act of 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling houses demolished as a result of procedure under Section 11 .. .. .	28
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(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished as a result of informal action .. .. .	5
(3)	Number of dwelling houses closed but not demolished as a result of undertakings (which have not been cancelled) by owners under Section 11 not to use the houses for human habitation .. .. .	—
(4)	Parts of buildings closed (Section 12) .. .. .	—
(5)	Number of persons displaced as a result of action :—	
	Under (1) above .. .. .	88
	Under (2) above .. .. .	13
	Under (3) above .. .. .	—
	Under (4) above .. .. .	—

### HOUSING STATISTICS.

#### 1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or or Housing Acts) .. .. .	225
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	225
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 ..	78
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	78
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. .. .	67
(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to in the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respect reasonably fit for human habitation .. .. .	158

#### 2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.

	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers .. .. .	76
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### 3. Action under statutory powers during the year.

(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- (i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs —
- (ii) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :
  - (a) By owners .. .. . —
  - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners —

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

- (i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. .. . 77
- (ii) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices
  - (a) By owners .. .. . 89
  - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners —

### BUILDING LICENSING REGULATIONS.

The following table indicates the licences issued during the year with the value of the work carried out :—

Month.	No. of Licences.	£	s.	d.
January .. .. .	—	—	—	—
February .. .. .	—	—	—	—
March .. .. .	—	—	—	—
April .. .. .	—	—	—	—
May .. .. .	—	—	—	—
June .. .. .	1	800	0	0
July .. .. .	—	—	—	—
August .. .. .	—	—	—	—
September .. .. .	—	—	—	—
October .. .. .	—	—	—	—
November .. .. .	—	—	—	—
December .. .. .	—	—	—	—
	1	800	0	0

### PUBLIC BATHS.

The swimming pool is 100 ft. by 35 ft., depth varying from 3 ft. to 9 ft. 3 in., holding 133,000 gallons of water which is filtered, heated, aerated and sterilised at the rate of 35,000 gallons per hour. The surrounds are of special non-slip tiles. Fixed diving boards are provided. The dressing cubicles are in separate rooms away from the pool. Between the cubicles and the pool are the pre-cleansing facilities. Considerable improvements were carried out in 1946, the ceiling and upper parts of the walls being fitted with acoustic tiles which are not only reduced the nuisance of noise and made proper instruction possible, but also proved an attractive decoration. The lower parts of the walls were treated with glazed cream and green tiles which are clean, of pleasing appearance and durable. The pool now favourably compares with any in the Midlands.

Slipper baths are arranged in two suites of six each for men and women. Foam and medicated baths, together with cooling room, were also added in 1946.

### PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

Schedule of Individual Items causing nuisance in respect of which notices were served.

	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Complied with.
Drain Stoppages and defects .. .. .	513	1	517
Rain Water Pipes and Eaves Gutters ..	20	4	17
Dampness .. .. .	86	50	113
Flooded cellars .. .. .	—	—	2
W.C. Compartments .. .. .	35	18	45
Wash Houses .. .. .	40	24	49
Sink Waste Pipes .. .. .	4	1	4
Staircases .. .. .	4	1	5
Interior Plastering .. .. .	33	17	50
Roofs .. .. .	70	40	94
Paving .. .. .	—	—	4
Windows.. .. .	42	29	62
Floors .. .. .	19	13	21
Fireplaces .. .. .	7	4	7

### INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFESTATION.

79 visits and re-visits have been made to infectious disease cases and in 68 other cases for necessary investigation.

68 premises have been disinfected after infectious disease or other complaints, 34 premises disinfested in connection with verminous conditions. Terminal disinfection was carried out in the case of four deaths from Tuberculosis, and bedding was either destroyed or steam disinfected.

### PETROLEUM ACTS.

43 licences were issued for the bulk storage of 45,650 gallons of motor spirit.

Four licences were issued for the storage of carbide of calcium—a total of 3 tons 16 cwts.

Three licences were issued for the storage of 9,500 gallons of cellulose, special storage being provided in accordance with the requirements of the Cellulose Regulations.

### REFUSE COLLECTION.

1953.	Refuse	Waste Paper.			Kitchen Waste.		
	Tons.	T. C. Q.	£	s. d.	T. C. Q.	£	s. d.
January ..	685	24 8 2	183	3 9	1 9 2	5	3 3
February ..	716	16 0 3	120	5 7	18 2	3	4 9
March ..	672	14 13 2	101	18 9	19 0	3	6 6
April ..	623	14 18 0	96	17 0	19 0	3	6 6
May ..	630	17 5 2	112	5 9	1 19 2	7	13 1
June ..	617	13 14 3	89	5 11	2 0 0	7	15 0
July ..	660	17 9 1	113	10 2	2 9 0	9	9 11
August ..	580	14 2 0	91	13 0	2 10 0	9	13 9
September ..	671	17 6 0	112	9 0	3 4 0	12	8 0
October ..	646	13 16 2	89	17 3	3 8 0	13	3 6
November ..	655	15 3 0	97	15 0	2 4 2	8	12 5
December ..	664	18 4 3	122	13 4	2 1 0	7	18 11
Totals ..	7720	197 2 2	1331	14 6	24 2 0	91	15 7

This information has been supplied by courtesy of C. R. Whitmore, Esq., A.M.I.Mun.E., Engineer and Surveyor to the Council.

### MEAT AND FOODS.

1,912 pigs have been slaughtered during the year, 1,872 at licensed slaughterhouses and 40 on private premises.

13 persons are licensed as slaughtermen under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.



There are two licensed slaughterhouses operating in the district, both being operated by pork butchers. Both these premises are of an excellent standard, being provided with all the necessary equipment and facilities required by the trade.

### **Slaughterhouses.**

Number of private slaughterhouses in district	..	2
Number of visits made to slaughterhouses	.. ..	92

### **Animals slaughtered for sale and Human Consumption.**

					<i>Pigs.</i>
Number of animals killed	..	..	..		1872
Number of animals inspected	..	..	..		1872

### **All disease except Tuberculosis.**

Whole carcase condemned	..	..	..		—
Carcases of which some part or Organ was condemned	..	..	..	..	25

### **Tuberculosis.**

Whole carcase condemned	..	..	..		—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	..	..	..	..	126

The following is a list of articles found to be unfit for Human consumption and disposed of during the year :—

						lbs.	ozs.
111	tins	Plums	..	..	..	152	15½
9	„	Ham	..	..	..	148	14
9	„	Marmalade	..	..	..	26	8
17	„	Beans	..	..	..	13	0
4	„	Strawberries	..	..	..	4	13
50	„	Prunes..	..	..	..	50	13½
563	„	Cherries	..	..	..	252	1½
4	„	Macedoine	..	..	..	4	15
10	„	Grapes..	..	..	..	13	4
313	„	Tomatoes	..	..	..	219	12½
7	„	Soup	..	..	..	7	0
12	„	Tomato Juice..	..	..	..	11	6
10	„	Raspberries	..	..	..	10	0
72	„	Pears	..	..	..	54	2½
3	„	Syrup	..	..	..	6	0
9	„	Damsons	..	..	..	11	9
9	„	Apples	..	..	..	10	0½



						lbs.	ozs.
5	tins	Peaches	..	..	..	8	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
10	„	Apple Sauce	..	..	..	8	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
6	„	Bilberries	..	..	..	6	7 $\frac{1}{4}$
1	„	Pork Butts	..	..	..	3	3
2	„	Fruit Salad	..	..	..	1	15
9	„	Apples and Blackberries	..	..	..	8	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
4	„	Sardines	..	..	..	1	0
2	„	Gauves	..	..	..	3	13
7	„	Gooseberries	..	..	..	7	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
3	„	Rhubarb	..	..	..	2	13
10	„	Cod Roe	..	..	..	17	1
8	„	Ox Tongues	..	..	..	48	0
5	„	Greengages	..	..	..	8	1
8	„	Blackcurrants	..	..	..	7	8 $\frac{1}{2}$
1	„	Shrimps	..	..	..		3 $\frac{3}{4}$
2	„	Lobster	..	..	..		12 $\frac{3}{4}$
3	„	Corned Beef	..	..	..	18	0
2	„	Sliced Kidneys	..	..	..	1	8
3	„	Irish Stew	..	..	..	3	0
3	„	Grapefruit Juice	..	..	..	3	9
1	„	Grapefruit	..	..	..	1	5
1	„	Oranges	..	..	..	1	0
6	„	Pears	..	..	..	5	13
5	„	Jellied Veal	..	..	..	30	0
3	„	Pineapple	..	..	..	2	4
9	„	Apricots	..	..	..	7	12
15	„	Pineapple Jelly	..	..	..	15	0
11	„	Jam	..	..	..	16	0
2	„	Bananas	..	..	..	2	0
3	„	Rabbit	..	..	..	3	0
13	„	Blackberries	..	..	..	11	6
2	„	Pressed Pork	..	..	..	19	4
1	„	Pilchards	..	..	..		15
1	„	Goldenberries	..	..	..	1	0
1	„	Cream	..	..	..		4
1	„	Minced Beef Loaf	..	..	..		12
1	„	Minced Meat	..	..	..		14 $\frac{1}{2}$
161	pkts.	Cheese	..	..	..	170	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
43	„	Welsh Rarebit	..	..	..	5	6
4	jars	Mint Sauce	..	..	..	2	10
1	„	Onions..	..	..	..		19 $\frac{1}{2}$
2	„	Chicken and Tomato Paste	..	..	..		2 $\frac{1}{2}$
		Luncheon Meat	..	..	..	1	8
		Veal	..	..	..		12

						lbs.	ozs.
	Ham (loose)	..	..	..		46	0
	Pork .. ..	..	..	..		4	12
	Chicken Cutlets	..	..	..		17	0
	Beef .. ..	..	..	..		32	0
	Chawl .. ..	..	..	..		2	0
	Haslet .. ..	..	..	..		3	0
	Tongue .. ..	..	..	..		19	0
	Sausages .. ..	..	..	..		19	0
	Crayfish .. ..	..	..	..		28	0
	Fruit Fudge .. ..	..	..	..		560	0
	Nut Kernels .. ..	..	..	..		8	1
13 tins	Milk ( $23\frac{3}{4}$ ) pints	..	..	..			
						2196	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Various parts of pigs (Slaughtered in district) .. ..	..	..	..	..	1489	2
	Total weight .. ..	..	..	..		3685	13 $\frac{1}{2}$

### Disposal of Unfit Foods.

Tinned goods which are not suitable for disposal by burning are transported to the Town Hall Yard where a workman smashes the tins to render the contents unusable. The resultant articles are then conveyed to the Council's controlled tip where they are deposited at the base of the working face and the day's refuse deposited on top and consolidated to ensure there is no nuisance from fly breeding or smells and no opportunity given for rats to feed on this food.

Items of food such as parts of pig carcasses, loose ham, etc., which are suitable for destruction by burning are, immediately after surrender to the Inspector, taken by a Council workman to the Council's Incinerator and forthwith destroyed by burning. The arrangements are such as to ensure that there is no possibility of any unfit food of this nature being diverted and finding its way to the public.

Fortunately there exists a very high degree of co-operation between the traders in the town and the staff of the Health Department which ensures adequate disposal of any unfit food.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

There is one Civic Restaurant in the area.

	<i>Number in District.</i>					<i>Visits made.</i>
Catering Establishments .. .. .	65	..	..	..	..	65
Bakehouses .. .. .	7	..	..	..	..	35
Fried Fish Shops .. .. .	18	..	..	..	..	97
Preserved Food Premises .. .. .	7	..	..	..	..	43
Butchers' Shops .. .. .	26	..	..	..	..	144
Ice Cream .. .. .	71	..	..	..	..	142

## MILK SUPPLY.

The whole of the milk supply in the district is heat treated, approximately 75% of the milk retailed being sterilised.

There are no sterilising plants in the district.

Details in connection with the bacteriological examination and the results are indicated in the Medical Officer's section of this report.

There are no cow-keepers in the district.

The following were registered for the sale of milk in this area under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949 :—

### Supplementary Licences.

Sterilised .. .. .	12
Pasteurised .. .. .	12
T.T. .. .. .	11

### Dealer's Licences.

Sterilised .. .. .	81
Pasteurised .. .. .	17
T.T. .. .. .	7

**FACTORIES ACT, 1937 AND 1948 (PART 1).**

## 1. Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health :—

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of	
		Inspections.	Occupiers prosecuted.
Factories with mechanical power ..	80	62	—
Factories without mechanical power	28	28	—

## 2. Cases in which defects were found :—

Particulars.	M/c. line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosec- utions were instituted.
		Found.	Remedied.	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) .. ..	1	1	1	—	1	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	2	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Tem- perature (S.4) ..	3	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ..	4	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)						
(a) Insufficient ..	5	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective ..	6	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes .. ..	7	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including Offences relating to Outwork) .. ..	8	—	—	—	—	—
Total .. ..	—	1	1	—	1	—

## RODENT CONTROL.

### Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

The following treatments have been undertaken during the year :—

Business premises (Factories, Shops, etc.) .. .. .	25 treatments.
Private dwelling houses .. .. .	17 „
Tips, Sewage Works, Brook Courses, etc. .. .. .	3 „
Estimated kill-Rats .. .. .	313
Estimated kill-Mice .. .. .	113

### Disinfestation.

34 Premises were treated against insects and vermin.

## PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

No licences have been applied for or issued during the year.



## Schedule of Houses and Accommodation.

## SUMMARY.

## TOTAL — ALL WARDS.

Ward.			Erec- ted by L.A.	Total Dwell- ing Houses	No. with 1 Bed- room	No. with 2 Bed- rooms	No. with 3 Bed- rooms	No. with 4 and over	Total Bed- rooms	Total Living rooms
Catherines Cross	..	..	907	1665	33	495	1080	57	4491	2962
Central	..	..	774	1305	53	372	850	30	3467	2017
Bentley	..	..	724	1278	13	372	889	4	3440	2190
The Green	..	..	270	959	18	431	499	11	2421	1773
All Saints	..	..	61	842	13	492	315	22	2030	1595
TOTALS	..	..	2736	6049	130	2162	3633	124	15849	10537



